

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00836 050931Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-03 /021 W

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O R 050900Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3587

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0836

REF JIDDA 0687, STATE 028136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA REQUIREMENT RE STAR OF DAVID CERTIFICATION

1. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BANKING CONTROL DEPARTMENT OF SAMA, MINCOMMERCE HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL REGULATIONS WHICH STATED THAT NO MERCHANDISE BEARING A SIX-POINTED STAR COULD BE IMPORTED INTO SAUDI ARABIA. SAMA WILL ISSUE CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION TO BANKS HERE AS SOON AS MINCOMM INSTRUCTIONS ARE RECEIVED, STATING THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR LANGUAGE REGARDING SIX-POINTED STARS IN LETTERS OF CREDIT. THIS WILL EFFECTIVELY REMOVE ISSUE OF "STAR OF DAVID" FROM BOYCOTT PROBLEMS.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS MAY APPEAR TO BE A SMALL ACTION, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MAYHVE AN INDICATION THAT THE TECHNOCRAT MINISTERS SUCH AS SULIMAN SULAIM (COMMERCE) AND ABA AL-KHAYL (FINANCE) ARE HAVING POSITIVE IMPACT ON SAG POLICY MAKING -- THAT IS, THEY ARE ACTING POSITIVELY TO REMOVE A POSSIBLE IRRITANT IN US/SAUDI RELATIONS IN A WAY WHICH WILL NOT SMACK OF SURRENDER TO US PRESSURE.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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